

Guilt or Innocence?

English Writer Doubts Oswald Killed Kennedy

By LYNN LANIER

Michael Eddowes has to wait a long time for his ship to come in.

If it's fame he wants, he knows it won't come quickly. He's had it before, but it took years to build.

Fame the first time around came after 13 years of investigating a murder trial in which the accused was ultimately convicted and executed.

Eddowes, an Englishman who describes himself as a lawyer from a family of lawyers, became interested in the trial of Timothy Evans, a man accused of murdering his wife and child.

Eddowes didn't believe the man was guilty. His long years of investigating the case were detailed in a book called "The Man on Your Conscience: An Investigation of the Evans Murder Trial."

The author became so involved, that he didn't stop his efforts to rectify the case with his book. He bought the murder house, he says, in order to have the ministers, judges and lawyers involved in several public inquiries examine it.

Nine years after the publication of the book, Timothy Evans was posthumously pardoned by the queen. The real murderer, John Reginald Halliday Christie, confessed to the Evans murders as well as others.

Eddowes, who is willing to praise himself, considers the 20-year-old book a highly reputable piece of investigatory work.

"We got the biggest reviews of any book since the war," he says smiling.

But now there is a new matter, one not being met with such approval.

Since 1963, the aging Eddowes has been working on investigating the assassination of President Kennedy. Like other conspiracy theorists, Eddowes couldn't accept Lee Harvey Oswald as the sole factor in the assassination.

"I started to investigate Kennedy in relationship to Russian espionage—five months before he was assassinated," said Eddowes on a visit to Atlanta recently. "I knew a team had been sent from Russia to assassinate the character of Kennedy between the election and inauguration."

For Eddowes, the still unanswered questions developed in this way: Khrushchev ordered the killing by a trained assassin who would pose as Lee Harvey Oswald. The real Oswald helped prepare the imposter for his role, but stayed in Russia.

This theory, put forth in his second book, "The Oswald File," has met with ridicule.

Thomas Powers review in

the New York Times Book Review called the book "breathtakingly bad—woodenly written, implausible, contradictory, lacking in evidence."

The review maintains that Eddowes offers "exactly one piece of evidence for this bold conjecture..." (that a Russian agent impersonated Oswald in order to kill Kennedy.)

That evidence is the fact that Oswald's height is listed as 5 feet 9 inches on some documents and 5 feet 11 inches on others.

But Eddowes doesn't waiver on the importance of his theory, a story he admits "may seem hard to believe," but one that 14 years of study have convinced him is the truth.

Without reservation, he says that Khrushchev would have had Nixon assassinated had the election gone the other way.

"After Kennedy had stood up to Khrushchev, after the Berlin Crisis and the Cuban

Crisis, Khrushchev ordered the assassination of Kennedy, no doubt to be carried out in the same manner as the projected assassination of Nixon, had he been elected president."

Asked about motives, Eddowes scoffs. Motive, he claims is a misleading factor in any crime. It all too often takes the investigator down the wrong path, he continued.

"But I know he (Khrush-

chev) planned to kill Nixon, because he was an implacable enemy of the Soviet Union. Kennedy turned out to be as strong as Nixon in opposing Khrushchev's expansion policies."

Eddowes maintains he is not the only one who knows about the imposter. He claims "officials in Washington" knew there was an Oswald imposter working in Russia who had succeeded in making the embassy in Moscow believe he was real.

But, when the Kennedy assassination took place, says Eddowes, it became necessary

sination. If the CIA had been involved, it certainly wouldn't have asked that the body be exhumed."

Eddowes seems almost paranoid in terms of his own safety. As far back as 1963, he says he received threats on

his life because of his investigation.

"I didn't sleep in the same place twice over a period of six months," he says.



Staff Photo — Nancy Mangalica

Michael Eddowes: Russian Imposter Theory

"Fingerprints of the real Lee Harvey Oswald were never produced in the Warren Report," he says. Why a cover-up? "Americans would have clamored for war if they knew Russia had done it. So, they had to cover it up."

Eddowes is almost fanatical in the espousal of his theory. He is convinced that the Russians were not only responsible for the Kennedy assassination, but that they were able to instill fear in Johnson and later Nixon.

"I think it's extremely dangerous to have one man over the free world. The Russians have 20. Kill those 20 and they'll be 20 more with the same duties," he says.

He calls the theories that tie the CIA into the assassination "wild."

"There is not one scintilla of evidence that the CIA had any role in the assassination," he says, producing a mimeographed copy of a memorandum purportedly to the director of the FBI.

"In this memo, the CIA was asking for exhumation of Oswald's body. That was, just three months after the assas-